

**STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

on the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1961

R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health)

D. F. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.
(Public Health Inspector)

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STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman : MR. W. A. COLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : MR. C. H. HODGSON

Members of the Council

Mr. R. F. Abbotts	Mr. R. R. Hutton
Mrs. F. A. Ariss	Mr. H. Knight
Mr. W. J. Ariss	Mr. A. J. Millington, B.A.
Mr. J. W. Bullock	Mr. L. J. Perry
Mr. C. F. Gazard	Mr. R. G. Ready
Mr. A. H. Hall	Mr. G. C. I. Wainwright
Mr. R. Holroyd	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

The Council House, New Street,

Stourport-on-Severn.

Telephone Number - Stourport-on-Severn 2318

Public Health Inspector :

MR. D. F. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Clerk :

MRS. I. M. MANN Until 15th October, 1961

MRS. D. M. POLLARD from 4th December, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR, 1961

To the Chairman and Members of the Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1961.

The report is divided into the following sections :—

- “ A ” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- “ B ” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- “ C ” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- “ D ” Housing.
- “ E ” Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- “ F ” Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Main Occupations of the Area :

The principal industries of the area comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, chains for many purposes, wire cables, fans, timber production, electric transformers, a tannery and a vinegar works.

In addition there are :

- (a) Three large Oil Companies engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil.
- (b) One company engaged in the bulk storage and distribution of imported timber.

All the timber and the majority of the petrol and oil arrives by boat from Avonmouth, Stourport-on-Severn being the head of the portion of the River Severn which is navigable by commercial traffic.

There is also in the district one of the largest Power Stations in the Midlands.

SECTION " A "

AREA IN ACRES	3,218
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1961)	
According to Rate Books	3,766
RATEABLE VALUE	£210,914
SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE	£864
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION (1961 Census)	11,751

LIVE BIRTHS

				TOTALS			
				Male	Female	1961	1960
Legitimate				111	109	220	187
Illegitimate				10	6	16	6
				121	115	236	193

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population for the Urban District was	20.0	16.7
THE BIRTH RATE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES for the same period was	17.4	17.1
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent of Total Live Births was	6.8	3.1

STILL BIRTHS

				Male	Female	1961	1960
Legitimate				1	3	4	4
Illegitimate				—	—	—	—
				1	3	4	4

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was	17.0	20.3
THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Live and Still Births for England and Wales for the same period was	18.7	19.7

				TOTALS			
				Male	Female	1961	1960
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS				122	118	240	197

DEATHS

				TOTALS			
				Male	Female	1961	1960
Total Deaths				52	48	100	98
THE DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population was						8.5	8.5
THE DEATH RATE for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was						12.0	11.5

MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion)....	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 births (live and still) was	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for England and Wales for the same period per 1,000 births (live and still) was	0.33	0.39

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female	1961	1960
LEGITIMATE	1	—	1	1
ILLEGITIMATE	—	—	—	—
	1	—	1	1

THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 total live births was	4.2	5.2
THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the same period for England and Wales per 1,000 total live births was	21.4	21.7
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 Legitimate Live births was	4.2	5.2
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births was	Nil	Nil

NEONATAL MORTALITY	1960	1961
The deaths of infants under four weeks numbered	—	1
representing a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 live births.		
The deaths of infants under four weeks in England and Wales during 1961 represented a rate of 15.5 per 1,000 related live births.		

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	Male	Female
Prematurity	1	—

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE

The deaths of infants under one week number	ONE
representing a rate of 4.2 per 1,000 live births	

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Still births and deaths under one week combined numbered 5
representing a rate of 20.9 per 1,000 live and still births.

	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS (Including Transferable Deaths)

Ref.

<i>No.</i>						<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
2	Tuberculosis Respiratory	....	....	....	....	2	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	....	....	....	....	—	2
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	....	....	....	....	1	—
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	....	....	....	....	—	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	....	....	....	....	5	6
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	....	....	....	....	10	11
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	....	....	....	....	14	6
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	1	1
20	Other Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	7	6
21	Circulatory Disease	....	....	....	....	4	—
22	Influenza	....	....	....	....	—	2
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	1	—
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	—	2
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	—	1
28	Nephritis Nephrosis	....	....	....	....	—	2
31	Congenital Malformations	....	....	....	....	1	1
32	Other Defined and Ill Defined Diseases	....	....	....	....	1	6
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	....	....	....	....	2	—
34	All other accidents	....	....	....	....	1	—
35	Suicide	....	....	....	....	2	—

SECTION " B "

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services

Producer samples of milk and water are examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological and pathological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Service

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

Hospitals

All hospitals are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committee. The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district, The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding area with maternity beds.

Cases admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hos-						
pital during the year	....	....	....	....	....	447
Women delivered	....	....	....	....	....	363
Infants born alive	....	....	....	....	....	362
Infants' deaths	....	....	....	....	....	2
Infants still born	....	....	....	....	....	3
Maternal deaths	....	....	....	....	....	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	....	6
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

Infectious Diseases

Beds for infectious diseases are provided at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen, 2 cases (1 of measles and 1 of mumps) were admitted from Stourport-on-Severn Urban District during the year.

Tuberculosis

Out patient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary, where Dr. Cronin attends Tuesday evenings, Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. In-patients' treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium. Sanatorium facilities formerly provided at St. Wulstan's Hospital are no longer required, and this hospital is now used for psychiatric cases. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

Venereal Disease

Treatment and " follow-up " are carried out at the following :—
Kidderminster and District General Hospital
Worcester Royal Infirmary
Other neighbouring hospitals as required.

Nursing in the Home

The service is administered by the Local Health Authority.
There are :

- 1 Three nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.
- 2 Two whole-time Health Visitors and School Nurses who attend school medical inspections, treat minor ailments at the school clinic and visit cases of mental defect. They visit infants and children in the home and are responsible for their welfare from fourteen days until they attend school at five years, when they continue to supervise under the school scheme. They act as general health advisers to the family in conjunction with the doctors, and give help wherever practicable, particularly with the ageing members of the family. They attend all Infant Welfare Clinics in their area. For this purpose the Urban District is divided into two areas one nurse being responsible for the Town centre, Lower Heath and surrounding district, Areley Kings, Astley and the old part of the Walshes Estate, and the other one for the north side of Bewdley Road, Newtown, Wilden, Burlish and the new part of the Walshes Estate.
- 3 A whole-time Health Visitor who visits cases of Tuberculosis.

Clinics

(a) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital in the charge of Doctors MacArthur, C. Mackie, Winter, Black and W. T. Mackie and Matron respectively. A clinic is also held by the district midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

(b) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

- (i) Lucy Baldwin held first and third Fridays in each month.
- (ii) Wilden, held third Wednesday in month
- (iii) Areley Kings, held in Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons. (In charge of Dr. Winter).

Children under five are immunised at these clinics and vaccination is carried out as required.

Separate sessions for Poliomyelitis immunisations are held at the Mitton Street School Clinic, by appointment, for all those age groups who are eligible.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The majority of the dwellings in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of supply is deep bore belonging to Bewdley Corporation, the storage reservoirs are situated at Mount Pleasant.

Bacteriological samples taken from the main supply on: 15th March, 5th October and 13th December, proved satisfactory.

Report on a sample taken from the town supply at the Council House, New Street, Stourport-on-Severn on the 13th December 1961:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERS

Colour	Colourless	
Odour	None	
	No deposit	P.H. 7.8

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION (Results expressed in parts per million)

SOLIDS IN SUSPENSION	(Dried at 100° C)	....	—
SOLIDS IN SOLUTION	(Dried at 180° C)	....	195
SOLIDS IN SOLUTION	After Ignition	....	90
CHLORINE PRESENT AS CHLORIDE		....	20
HARDNESS	NON-CARBONATE	....	32
„	CARBONATE	....	96
„	TOTAL	....	128
AMMONIACAL	NITROGEN	....	0.01
ALBUMINOID	NITROGEN	....	Trace
Nitrate	NITROGEN	....	5.8
Nitrite	Nitrogen	....	Trace
OXYGEN ABSORBED IN 4 HOURS AT 27° C (N/80 PER-			
MANGANATE)		....	0.10
TOXIC METALS		....	None detected
RESIDUAL CHLORINE	FREE	....
	COMBINED	....
	TOTAL	....
FLUORINE		....

OPINION :—The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

Signed,

M. M. LOVE,

County Analyst

Mains extensions were carried out to serve the Homeville Estate and the Grove.

Negotiations are continuing between the constituent Authorities and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the formation of the North West Worcestershire Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage

Disposal of sewage at the Oldington Disposal Works, used jointly with the Borough of Kidderminster and Bewdley, has continued satisfactorily.

Extensions were carried out as necessary to serve new development in the town.

“ SECTION “ D ”

HOUSING

92 Houses were completed by the Council during the year. (Homeville Scheme). These were for sale to applicants on the council's list and tenants of existing Council houses. In addition 90 houses were built by private enterprise.

Number of Council Houses in the Urban District	....	1269
Number of Huttred dwellings requisitioned by Council		Nil
Number of Houses requisitioned by Council	....	Nil
Number of Applicants for Council houses	....	285
Number of above applicants who are living in lodgings		75
Approximate total number of persons represented by application list	....	652

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation in the district, 8 Demolition Orders were made during the year.

Number of families rehoused from condemned properties 4

Burlish Estate

The firm of builders who purchased this estate have commenced redevelopment working from the end of Brindley Street, and will eventually construct new streets and dwellings on the area previously occupied by the Burlish Camp No. 1.

Walshes Farm Areas

(a) THE COUNCIL'S CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

This site contained 72 caravans and approximately 180 tents during the holiday period.

Work was commenced on an additional sanitary block which will provide facilities to comply with the Caravan Act.

The conversion of the second half of the existing sanitary block to water carriage has not been undertaken.

Further improvements will be carried out to the sites before the camping season commences.

First Aid

The council decided to provide a suitable hut for a First Aid Centre and this was opened ready for the Industrial Holiday fortnight.

By agreement with the Council the B.R.C.S. undertook to man this centre on a 24 hour basis during this period and as required at other times during the year.

The service provided has proved most valuable both in ensuring early treatment for minor ailments which are astonishingly numerous, and in obtaining early diagnosis and treatment for more serious illness by reference to the local doctors. During the year 908 cases were treated ranging from the very minor to a small number requiring early treatment in hospital.

In addition to the above 431 cases were treated at the First Aid Tent on the Riverside Promenade.

(b) Haywood's Meadow

This site has approximately 150 holiday caravans, bungalows and similar structures, and during the August holidays a large number of tents occupy the recreation area of the field.

A road was provided to serve this site but no sanitary improvements have been undertaken as the proposed water main has not yet been installed.

Houseboats

A few boats are occupied on a permanent basis and sooner or later these people become applicants for a council house. The British Water Ways are discouraging such occupation.

“SECTION “E”

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The number of manufacturers of ice cream on the register is 5, and the number of retailers of ice cream is 55. Regular samples have been taken from the manufacturers and these have proved satisfactory.

Food Poisoning

No cases of Food Poisoning have occurred during the year in this Urban District.

Adulteration of Food

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that the following samples were taken during the year :—

Milk Samples	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Miscellaneous Foods	....	....	....	....	....	....	77
Drugs	....	....	....	....	....	....	8

Two large dairies in the areas of adjoining authorities distribute milk in Stouport Urban District and milk producers' consignments going into these dairies were sampled from time to time. Altogether 972 samples were taken, 61 of these were deficient of fat but in every case the composite fat content of the producers' consignment was correct. 82 samples taken from producers' consignments were deficient in solids not fat but were found to be genuine milk of poor quality by the application of the freezing point test (Hortvet) One sample of milk contained extraneous water to the extent of 9 per cent. This sample was purchased as a glass of milk from a cafe in Stourport and the proprietor was fined £5 plus £8/8s. costs at Stourport. 77 miscellaneous samples other than milk were purchased and sent for analysis. Objections were raised at Manufacturer's level to the labelling of 5 of these articles. The samples were as follows :

- (a) Tinned beef and vegetables—The label bore no statement of ingredients as required by the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.
- (b) Canned Chicken. The meat content of this sample was insufficient to warrant the description “chicken” without the addition of the words “in jelly” a meat content of 95 per cent. is expected. The words “in jelly” are used where a meat content of 70 per cent. and under is present.

(c) Chocolate Bars—Rum or Cherry Brandy flavoured. There are chocolates flavoured with alcoholic liquors and others with imitation flavourings. The chocolate sampled was found to contain imitation flavourings only, but labelling was ambiguous on this point. The manufacturers are being pressed for a clearer form of labelling.

SECTION “ F ”

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diptheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year at clinics, schools or by general practitioners, was as follows :

Pre-School children	....	....	....	....	....	217
School Children	....	....	....	....	....	36
Reinforcing doses	....	....	....	....	....	383

General

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table.

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Tuberculosis	6	5	2
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	4	—	1
Whooping Cough	21	—	—
Scarlatina	16	—	—
Measles	292	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	—	—

Tuberculosis

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 —	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	3	—	—	2	—	—	—

B.C.G. Inoculations

The County Council scheme for the testing and inoculation of susceptible children in their thirteenth year continued satisfactorily and the following are the figures for the year :—

Number invited	....	....	....	....	....	240
Number accepted	....	....	....	....	....	230
Per cent. accepted	....	....	....	....	....	93.7
B.C.G. Negative	....	....	....	....	....	220
Positive	....	....	....	....	....	19
Number absent	....	....	....	....	....	1
Per cent. Positive	....	....	....	....	....	7.9

Mass Radiography Service

In April a Mobile X-ray unit visited the Authority, and just over 3,000 people from factories and the general public attended for X-Ray. One active case was found, eight probably inactive, six which were known before X-ray and a number of people with other conditions who were referred to their own doctors.

Conclusion

The Council's Homeville Scheme has been effective in releasing council houses for other families on the waiting list. However, there is still a considerable need for new houses and particularly bungalows for the aged.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. MARKHAM
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1961

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Report of the Public Health Inspector for the year, 1961.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

It is pleasing to record that the weekly collection of refuse throughout the town has been maintained during the year under review.

The introduction of a two crew system improved the efficiency of the collection and has continued to work satisfactorily during the twelve months, each crew being responsible for the collection of approximately half the town's refuse.

In the middle of the year consideration was given to the introduction of a bonus scheme for the refuse collectors in an endeavour to provide a reasonable return for this rather unpleasant job and to attract a better type of worker.

After consultations with the collectors and the Trade Union Representative a scheme was put before the Council and approval given. The scheme was put into operation in October, 1961.

There is no doubt that this refuse bonus scheme has settled the labour problem as there has only been one change in the crews since that time.

The new vehicle ordered came into service on the 1st December, 1961, allowing the older vehicle to be used only as a reserve. The additional vehicle enables regular servicing of the refuse freighters to be carried out without interruption of the refuse collection service.

The only real fault in the collection service now is that of the dustbin being left on the kerb without a lid prior to collection. This method appears to have been allowed to carry on from the inception of the refuse collection service in the town and is very difficult to overcome now it has become standard practice. It is hoped to make some progress in this aspect during the ensuing year.

Trade Refuse

Every effort was made to assist business firms in the disposal of their trade refuse. Each business premises is entitled to have one bin emptied weekly but for each additional bin a charge of 20s. per half year is made.

Those firms wishing to do so disposed of their own refuse on the Council's tip at a nominal charge of 2/6 per load. It was found necessary to keep an increasingly close watch on this facility as often times trade waste, it was discovered, was being brought from sources outside the Urban District area. Tipping space is extremely valuable to local authorities and care must be taken to ensure the maximum space is available to the town's ratepayers.

Refuse Disposal

The disposal of refuse takes place entirely at Bonemill Quarry in a controlled manner, a man being employed on a full time basis to look after the operation.

Indiscriminate tipping is to be deplored, as it gives rise to nuisance and results in additional work and untidiness. This, unfortunately, occurs from time to time as it seems some residents of the town consider they have a right to dump rubbish anywhere in the Bonemill Quarry area, and very often rubbish is found just inside the boundary fences or on sites which have been carefully covered over. Such offenders will be severely dealt with if apprehended.

Paper increasingly forms the greater bulk of refuse collected from households and takes up an enormous amount of space in the tip. Experiments have been made in carrying out controlled burning of some loads of refuse. Whilst this method of partial disposal is highly successful, practically, it is not the ideal answer.

Controlled tipping with adequate covering and sealing still remain the most satisfactory method for small authorities, providing mechanical help is available.

Salvage Collection and Disposal

Salvage in the form of waste paper and card-board is collected, sorted, baled and sold. The refuse collectors pick up that saved by householders and a Karrier Bantam low-loader continues to call on shopkeepers without charge.

During the year the hand-operated baling machine broke down on several occasions so it was decided to purchase a new electrically operated machine in due course, providing an electricity supply could be taken to Bonemill Quarry. At the time of writing this report the supply of electricity was still awaited.

Details of Salvageable Materials sold during 1961

			1961			1960		
			Weight			Amount		
			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	....	....	129	0	2	889	5	5
Cast Iron	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Light Scrap Metals	....	....	5	9	—	34	11	3
Tins	....	....	—	—	—	9	0	0
Rags etc.	....	....	—	3	—	1	10	0
Aluminium	....	....	—	—	2	1	0	0
Scrap Refuse Vehicle	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—
						935	6	8
						948	13	9

Details of Cost of Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Salvage during 1961

Expenditure	....	....	....	....	....	£12433
Income	....	....	....	....	....	£1237
						£11196

Total Weight of refuse collected and disposed of during 1961 recorded below :

<i>Month</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Weight Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
January	268	16	0
February	239	0	2
March	255	10	1
April	241	13	1
May	234	16	2
June	182	19	3
July	162	3	2
August	209	6	0
September	180	12	0
October	231	8	3
November	247	3	3
December	229	7	2
Total	2682	17	3

Cleansing of Pail Closets and Cesspools

The number of pail closets remains fairly constant although a few were replaced by water closets as a result of improvements to properties. In those areas still unsewered the emptying of pail closets and cesspools on a regular basis ensures that no possible nuisance from this source can arise within the Urban District, which is a most desirable achievement.

Details of Revenue from Private Work

	£	s.	d.
Chargeable work outside the district	70	0	0
Chargeable work inside the district	46	0	0

Outdoor Staff employed on Public Cleansing

- 2 Refuse Freighter Driver/loaders
- 1 Driver/Loader (Salvage and Refuse)
- 9 Refuse and Salvage Loaders
- 1 Tipman
- 1 Salvage Baler and Weighbridge Attendant
- 1 Gulley/Cesspool Emptier Driver
- 1 Gulley/Cesspool Emptier Attendant

Rodent Control

The essential service of rodent control as it has become since the 1939-45 war, and the introduction of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, continues to be carried on throughout the district. Dwelling houses are treated as a service to the community but business premises have to pay on a time and material basis.

Very little serious trouble has been experienced during 1961, disinfestations being carried out expeditiously and successfully.

Summary of Work carried out during 1961

<i>Type of Premises</i>					<i>Number of Treatments</i>
Local Authority's Property	....	....	....	....	28
Agricultural Property	....	....	....	....	5
Business Premises	....	....	....	....	32
Dwelling Houses	....	....	....	....	505

Public Conveniences

The town has continued to be served by the existing facilities that is, Bridge Street (Ladies and Gentlemen), Lion Hill (Ladies and Gentlemen), Swan Passage (Gentlemen) and Severn Meadows Car Park (Ladies and Gentlemen). The public conveniences on the Car Park were only opened during holidays and week-ends in the summer. The erection of a prominent sign pointing out these toilets greatly increased their use during the peak holiday periods, thus alleviating somewhat the congestion which always occurs at the Bridge Street public conveniences.

Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the services of attendants, particularly for the Ladies section at Bridge Street, but this was largely overcome by the valuable assistance of other attendants.

Irresponsible behaviour in the conveniences continued throughout the year causing a considerable amount of damage to locks, toilet roll holders, doors, etc. As always apprehending such offenders is almost impossible.

Atmospheric Pollution

Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council is not generally troubled with the problem of atmospheric pollution. Nevertheless

pollution to a degree must occur and ideally the whole town should be made a Smoke Controlled Area. There is, however, the problem of satisfactory fuel supplies for such an area to be overcome as it is understood that nationally there is still not sufficient solid smokeless fuel to supply all needs, and in addition the formation of a Smoke Controlled Area involves a tremendous amount of work and there is insufficient staff available.

At present complaints of smoke nuisance are few and far between and generally these can be dealt with satisfactorily by the informal approach.

Housing

The trend of 1960 was continued throughout 1961 in relation to the application for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, not a single enquiry was received during the year.

A number of houses were dealt with under the appropriate sections of the Housing Act, 1957, and a variety of repairs were required to be carried out under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Formal action to get owners to carry out repairs to their tenanted property was not frequently necessary as the majority of the work was completed after only an initial letter. There are, unfortunately, the owners who shirk their responsibilities and it has been necessary to bring the force of the law to bear in such cases.

Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwellings house at which defects were remedied....	21
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(3) Number of Undertakings not to re-let accepted	Nil
(4) Number of houses demolished following Statutory Action	11
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied following formal notices	1
(c) Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas) :	
	Nil

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS EFFECTED FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY OR STATUTORY ACTION

Structural Repairs	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Roof Repairs	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Eaves-gutters Repairs or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Rainwater pipes Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Windows or Doors Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Dampness Remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Firegrates and Ranges repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Floors Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Wall and Ceiling Plaster Repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
W.C. Fittings Repaired or Renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Drains Unblocked and Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Public Sewers Unblocked and cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	33
Houses Disinfested (including waspsnests)	....	....	....	....	....	....	31
Houses Disinfected	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
New Dustbins Provided after Notice	....	....	....	....	....	....	23
New Dustbins Provided by Council on request	....	....	....	....	....	....	179
Shops, Sanitary Conveniences, Repaired, Cleansed or Provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Houses Cleansed	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Pail Closets Converted	....	....	....	....	....	....	2

Food and Drugs Administration

The Urban District Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority in fact, as all the controls required bylaw are not carried out by them, In this town the responsibility for keeping a check on the composition and labelling of food and drugs lies with the Worcestershire County Council and is carried out by the Weights and Measures Department whose report can be found elsewhere. An Urban District must have a population of forty thousand and upwards before it can become a Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Any other matter relating to food, its hygienic manufacture, storage and exposure for sale comes under the direct jurisdiction of the Urban District Council. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, govern most of the matters apertaining to food handling and food premises and these are generally very well observed but education in these matters is always required somewhere.

Meat Inspection

Only one slaughterhouse has been operated during the year so the amount of meat to be inspected has been reduced to some extent. The high standard of quality has been maintained and because quality and soundness normally go together very little meat has been found to be unfit for human consumption.

During the year alterations and improvements were made to the existing slaughterhouse to comply with the new regulations apertaining to the slaughterhouses, which are to come into operation in total on the 1st January, 1962.

ANIMALS INSPECTED

	<i>Cattle (exclud- ing cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Hor- ses</i>
Number killed	68	Nil	Nil	474	134	Nil
Number Inspected	59	Nil	Nil	409	119	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :						
Whole Carcass con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	3	Nil	Nil	1	4	Nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysti- cerci	5.074	Nil	Nil	0.244	3.369	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcass con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.680	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Meat was condemned for the following reasons

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tuberculosis	20 lbs.
Pericarditis	7 „
Distomatosis	23 „
Actinonemycosis	20 „
Pleurisy	8 „
Necrosis	6 „
Abscesses	15 „
Total weight	99 lbs.

Other Foods

In 1961 39 visits were paid to shopkeepers, at their request, to inspect foodstuffs suspected of being unfit for human consumption. Generally it is necessary to issue a condemned note so that retailers may claim on the suppliers, who will only accept an official order.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were disposed of by burying at a suitable depth at the Council's Refuse Tip.

Bacon	....	....	....	....	....	....	8½ lbs.
Ham	....	....	....	....	....	....	6½ „
Gammon	....	....	....	....	....	....	5 „
Cooked Ham	....	....	....	....	....	....	38½ „
Roast Pork	....	....	....	....	....	....	3 „
Smoked Haddock	....	....	....	....	....	....	2½ stone
Boiled Prawns	....	....	....	....	....	....	6½ lbs.
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	....	....	47 tins
„ Vegetables	....	....	....	....	....	....	26 „
„ Tomatoes	....	....	....	....	....	....	109 „
„ Meat	....	....	....	....	....	....	45 „
„ Pudding	....	....	....	....	....	....	10 „
„ Cream	....	....	....	....	....	....	9 „
„ Milk	....	....	....	....	....	....	30 „
„ Fish	....	....	....	....	....	....	12 „
„ Cooked Ham	....	....	....	....	....	....	3 „
„ Corned Beef	....	....	....	....	....	....	43 „
„ Golden Syrup	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 „
Polish Jam	....	....	....	....	....	....	29 „
Golden Fillets	....	....	....	....	....	....	35 lbs.

Milk Supply

The administration of the law relating to this important food passed to the County Council as Food and Drugs Authority on the 1st January, 1961. Nevertheless, in the interest of the local community, a careful watch is kept on the methods of retailing milk to ensure it is not open to any contamination.

Ice cream

All premises, except catering premises, schools, clubs and entertainment halls, which manufacture, store or sell ice cream must be registered with the local Authority. Within the Urban District there are :—

1 Manufacturer

55 Retailers

The bulk of the ice-cream sold in the area is of the prepacked type manufactured by firms of national repute.

Only one business now actually manufactures ice cream and this one continues to use the “ Complete Cold Mix ” method. A high level of cleanliness was maintained as all the samples taken proved to be satisfactory.

During 1961 a new type of ice-cream became available to the public known as “ soft ice-cream.”

This ice cream is actually reconstituted on the premises or van from which it is retailed by means of special equipment. Basically one of the mix methods is used which comprises of either liquid or powder and the addition of water. Refrigeration is supplied in the machine. The process consists of reconstituting the ice cream, whipping and quick freezing, the ice cream remaining in the semi-fluid state.

Concern has been expressed in Public Health circles as some samples taken from such machines have not come up to the standard expected as far as keeping quality is concerned. This test gives an indication of the cleanliness standard. A close watch will be kept on this method of retailing ice cream to ensure proper standards are maintained.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16

Registration of premises used for the manufacture of prepared foods

Number on Register	7
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Details of Types of Food Manufactured

<i>Number of Premises</i>	<i>Food Manufactured</i>
1	Sausages, Cooked Meat and Pies
1	Sausages only
3	Sausages and Pickled Tongues
1	Meat Pickling
1	Cooked Ham only
Number of Inspections made	.... .... .... .... 11

Number of Food Premises in the area

<i>Type of Businesss</i>	<i>Number</i>
Works Canteen	8
School Kitchens	2
Bakehouses	1
Bakery and Confectionery	6
Grocers and Provision Merchants	17
General Food Shops	26
Sweet Shops	7
Greengrocers	4
Greengrocers and Fish Shops	3
Butchers Shops	9
Cooked Meats	3
Fish Friers	4
Licensed Premises (Including Clubs and off-licences)	50
Cafes and Snack Bars	11
Mobile Canteens	2
Mobile Fish Friers	1

Pet Animals Act, 1951

The two premises licensed as Pet Shops are inspected from time to time, and it has been found that very few pets are actually kept but nevertheless no contraventions of the Act have been observed.

Canal Boats

Canal boats as defined by the Public Health Act, 1936 do not ply within the confines of the Local Authority but the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, which commences at Stourport on Severn, has seen an increasing number of pleasure craft. Improved facilities in the Canal Basin provide for a satisfactory standard of hygiene to be maintained and further reduces the possibilities of nuisance being caused.

Infectious Disease Enquiries

Number of Enquiries made	....	....	....	....	7
Number of rooms disinfected	....	....	....	....	9

Disinfectant is provided free to the occupiers of any house where a case of infectious disease has occurred. Rooms are disinfected where necessary or on request.

Food Poisoning Investigation

This Department, in common with others within the County, collaborated with the County Health Department in follow up investigation of three cases of Paratyphoid B which had been traced to dessicated coconut used to decorate marshmallows, in another district of the County.

With the co-operation of the shopkeepers and caterers all dessicated coconut was withdrawn from sale and 16 samples submitted for examination.

Widespread enquiries and investigations were made resulting in some products being withdrawn completely from sale and steam sterilisation of the coconut before use.

No other cases of Paratyphoid B were reported and eventually the ban on the sale of dessicated coconut was lifted by the County Medical Officer.

Only satisfactory sterilisation of the dessicated coconut, prior to distribution, can obviate completely the likelihood of infection arising as the conditions under which coconut is handled in different parts of the world is said to leave much to be desired.

Offensive Trades

There are no Offensive Trades within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, carried out in this district.

Caravan and Camping Sites

The introduction of model standards for existing and new caravan sites has enabled the local authority to require better facilities.

Those sites existing in the district have all had their licences renewed and have been given a reasonable amount of time to come up to the new standards where necessary. Any new sites must comply with the Council's requirements before the site can be used for human habitation.

Generally speaking the first impact of the new legislation of 1960 produced further problems with the itinerant caravan dweller. A number appeared on common and open ground within the district and, unfortunately, produced the usual untidy site one has come to associate with such persons.

Combined pressure from the owner of the land, the local police and the Local Authority produced the desired result of moving them on but those intimately concerned with this problem realise full well it is a poor answer to it, and gives no satisfaction.

WATER SUPPLY

The various sources of water supply to dwelling houses, factories and holiday accommodation, was sampled from time to time during the year. Those supplied by shallow wells only did not always produce perfect results and the users were warned to boil the water prior to use. Wherever possible in these circumstances connection to the town's supply was advocated.

MORTUARY

In 1961 34 bodies were placed in the Council's Mortuary.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1959

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937,

Part I of the Act

1 INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	40	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	54	42	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases.”)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	—	1	—
Total	2	2	—	1	—

Out Workers

There are no persons at present registered as outworkers.

REGISTER OF FACTORIES (31ST DECEMBER, 1961)

Manufacture of Agricultural Implements	....	....	1
Blacksmith	....	....	1
Builders Yard	....	....	4
Battery Reconstruction	....	....	1
Builders	....	....	2
Chaff Cutters	....	....	1
Carpet Manufacturers	....	....	1
Civil Engineers....	....	....	1
Engineers	....	....	3
Food Manufacturers	....	....	6
Gravel Pits	....	....	2
Manufacture of Chains	....	....	1
Manufacture of Leather Goods	....	....	1
Manufacture of Packing Cases	....	....	1
Manufacture of Wood Articles	....	....	1
Manufacture of Ceramic Insulators	....	....	1
Manufacture of Electrical Components	....	....	2
Making of Lock Gates	....	....	1
Motor and Motor Cycle Engineers	....	....	5
Milliner	....	....	1
Joinery	....	....	1
Manufacture of Concrete Blocks	....	....	1
Boat Building	....	....	2
Power Plant	....	....	1
Petrol Depots	....	....	3
Repair of Canal Boats	....	....	1
Repair of Chains	....	....	1
Tannery....	....	....	1
Timber Merchants	....	....	4
Vinegar Works	....	....	1
Wire Merchants	....	....	1
			—
			54
			—

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED :

Preliminary Notices

Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	19
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	....	....	....	—
Factory Act, 1937	....	....	....	1
P.D.P.A., 1949	....	....	....	3
Housing Act, 1957	7

Statutory Notices

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	2
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SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS, 1961

Rent Act	Nil
Housing Act—Inspection on Complaint	37
Housing Act—Routine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	91
Public Health Act—on Complaint	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	93
Public Health Act—Routine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	172
Re-visits—Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	65
Re-visits—Public Health Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	163
Work in progress	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Infectious Disease Enquiries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Food Shops—General	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	42
Food Preparation Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Restaurant and Canteen Kitchens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Ice-cream Dealers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
Ice-cream Manufacturers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Fish Friers	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Factories—Mechanical Power	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	42
Factories—No Mechanical Power	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Caravan Sites	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	68
Controlled Tip	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	97
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
Survey for Infestation (P.D.P.A. 1949)								
Business Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Dwelling Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
Agricultural Property	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Workplaces	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	40
Smoke Observations	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Miscellaneous Inspections and Visits	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	71
Visits to inspect Food	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
Slaughterhouses—Meat Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	162
Slaughterhouses—Routine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Mortuary	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Water Supply	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	44
Food Poisoning Enquiries	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	79
								<hr/> 1509 <hr/>

Conclusion

The new legislation placed on the Statute Books during the year did not affect the work of the Public Health Department as much as it did in 1960, but the added powers, particularly under the Public Health Act, 1961, will enable matters of urgency to be dealt with more quickly and allows for certain other matters to be dealt with which had not been catered for in previous legislation.

Mrs. I. M. Mann left the Department at the end of October, 1961 after 5½ years, to take up a similar appointment with the Kidderminster Rural District Council. I would like to record my appreciation of her assistance from April, 1959, when I commenced my duties here, and I am sure I would be supported by my predecessors.

I also thank all Members of the Council and the Staff of the Council for their helpful assistance and close co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Lady and Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

D. F. HUGHES

Public Health Inspector

